

"Priority"

The acknowledgement of receipt of the papers submitted under 35 USC 119(a) to (d) is noted.

"Drawings"

In the specification, on page 3, lines 29 and 30, it is stated that the high end processor may be housed on PCB 11. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that PCB 11 constitutes processing circuitry, and hence processing means, as defined in claim 1. It is therefore respectfully submitted that the drawings (Fig. 6) show the processing means. Additionally, the above amendments involve deleting reference to operating means from claim 1. Therefore, it is also respectfully submitted that the drawings show all the features of claim 1 as amended.

"Specification"

The amendments involve deleting three of the incorporations by reference, and amending a fourth incorporation by reference. This amendment involves replacing the incorporation by reference with a substitute incorporation by reference to a US patent application identified by its serial number. A declaration from the Applicant, as required, is filed with this response. Even though the title of the application referred to in the incorporation by reference prior to the present amendment differs from that of the application referred to once the present amendment is introduced, as declared in the Applicant's declaration the material incorporated before and after the amendment is the same. Therefore no new matter is presented. It will also be noted that the title of the application as referred to prior to the amendment and the actual title of the application referred to after the amendment relates essentially to the same subject matter.

Accordingly the specification no longer incorporates material by reference to foreign patents or patent applications, or to unidentified US patent applications.

As mentioned above, the amendments to the specification involve deleting reference, in claim 1, to the operating means. Accordingly, the correction called for in item 4 of the Office Action has been made. Therefore it is respectfully submitted that lack of proper antecedent basis in the present regard is no longer an issue.

It is respectfully submitted that the formalities objections in relation to claims 11 and 13 have been successfully addressed by the amendments of the relevant claims which include providing the full wording represented by the acronyms referred to.

"Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112"

The amendments to the specification include amendments to claim 11 which *inter alia* restructure the claim to make more clear that the claim does not claim process steps, but is indeed directed to features of the claimed video game console device *per se*.

The amendments also include correcting the typographical error in claim 17 which is intended to depend from claim 16 and not from claim 15 as reflected before the amendment.

"Double Patenting"

It is stated, in the Office Action, that U.S. patent No. 5,566,290 (Silverbrook) discloses an equivalent integral printer for operatively enabling printout of images relevant to interactive program on paper. However, it is respectfully submitted that, if the claims of Silverbrook ('290) are considered, it will be seen that no printer, let alone an integral printer, is claimed in that patent. Further, it is respectfully submitted that the pertinent issue with regard to the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting relates to what is defined in the claims of the prior patent. It is further respectfully submitted that there are no features defined in the claims of Silverbrook ('290) which, when seen or interpreted in light of the remainder of the specification, may be construed as relating to an integral printer apparatus as defined in claim 1 of the present application. It is respectfully submitted that the disclosure of Silverbrook ('290) (as opposed to the claims thereof), at least insofar as this disclosure relates to a printer, does not support any relevant part of the claims of Silverbrook ('290), is not relevant as prior art, and must not be considered as part of an obviousness-type

double patenting objection. Furthermore, it is respectfully submitted that the issue of whether Silverbrook ('290) indeed discloses an equivalent integral printer apparatus (as stated in the Office Action) remains moot.

U.S. patent 5, 666,141 (Matoba et al) relates to an ink jet head and a method of manufacturing same. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the type of consideration of Silverbrook ('290) which is permitted in the present circumstances (i.e. of the claims only), in combination with a consideration of Matoba et al, does not teach or suggest the inclusion of printer apparatus in a video game console device as claimed in the present application.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 to 17 do not fall within the ambit of the doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over Silverbrook ('290) or over Silverbrook ('290) in view of Matoba et al and are therefore not unpatentable in this regard.

"Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103"

The Examiner states that Silverbrook ('290) discloses an equivalent integral printer. However, it is respectfully submitted that this is an incorrect reading of Silverbrook ('290). Silverbrook ('290) discloses that a processor, forming part of the device in question, permits the display of generated images on a colour laser printer. Silverbrook ('290) further states that the device embodying the invention in question includes a connector which permits interconnection of the device with "a data network or with a colour printer such as that contained within the Canon CLC500 colour laser copier". Silverbrook ('290) does not disclose a printer that is integral. The mention of a printer which is a colour laser printer, and in particular, reference to a printer in the form of the Canon printer referred to, indicates that what was envisaged in Silverbrook ('290) was an external (non-integral) printer. This inference is strengthened by the reference to a data network; this contemplates connection to an external entity rather than an entity integral with the device. It is submitted that the term "integral" implies that something is part of a whole. Silverbrook ('290) is directed to a device, and it appears clear that the printers disclosed in Silverbrook ('290) do not form part of the device itself. It is therefore respectfully submitted that Silverbrook ('290) teaches

away from the idea of an integral printer. Therefore, as a person skilled in the art would not be directed to a printer which is integral as defined in claim 1 of the present application, they would also not be directed to "an integral printer apparatus including a printhead, ink supply unit, and print media feed means" as defined in claim 1.

US 5,666,141 (Matoba et al) is directed to an ink jet head and a method of manufacturing thereof, and therefore would also not teach or suggest a printer apparatus being an integral part of a video game console device as defined in claim 1. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that whatever additions or modifications Matoba et al might suggest to a printer apparatus *per se* (i.e. in isolation), it is not relevant to the present invention as defined in claim 1.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is not unpatentable over Silverbrook ('290) or over Silverbrook ('290) in view of Matoba et al. Claims 2 to 17 all depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1 and therefore include features and limitations in addition to those of claim 1. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are also not unpatentable over Silverbrook ('290) or over Silverbrook ('290) in view of Matoba et al.

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CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that all of the Examiner's objections have been successfully traversed. Accordingly, it is submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the application is courteously solicited.

Very respectfully,

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MARKED UP SPEC

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A VIDEO GAME CONSOLE WITH INTEGRAL PRINTER DEVICE**Field of the Invention**

The present invention relates to the field of video games and, more particularly, to a video games console having an integral compact printer device.

Summary of the Invention

In accordance with a first aspect of the present invention, there is provided a video game console device including:

means to receive detachable interactive program storage means for execution by said console;

processing and operating means for executing said interactive program stored on said detachable interactive program storage means, said program execution causing the generation of images for display on an image display means;

communication means to enable operational interaction from control devices during execution of said program; and

an integral printer apparatus including a printhead, ink supply unit, and print media feed means;

said printer apparatus being operatively associated with said processing and operating means to print out on to print media images relevant to said interactive program.

In the preferred form, the console is designed for use with a detachable controller module that includes a variety of interactive control devices such as joysticks and control buttons etc. This controller may communicate with the console by wireless communication means such as the new "Bluetooth" system or by cable or other suitable communication means.

Preferably, the integral printer apparatus includes an internal print media supply unit.

In the preferred form, the print media is in the form of sheets of paper or card and the print media supply unit and ink supply unit are jointly housed in a replaceable cartridge assembly.

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Fig. 9 is a front perspective view of the console showing the printer module in the raised position for insertion of the print media and ink supply cartridge; and

Fig. 10 is a schematic view of the assembly shown in Fig. 9 illustrating insertion of a DVD into the DVD player module.

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Description of Preferred and Other Embodiments

In the illustrated preferred embodiment, there is provided a video game player which includes an integral printer which is able to print out, preferably on business card sized cards, information which enhances the interactivity of the video game.

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Turning to the figures, there is shown a video game console 1 comprising a printer module 2 and Digital Video Disk (DVD) player module 3. Connected to the console is an optional detachable controller module 4 as shown in Fig. 1. The detachable controller module can communicate with the console by any suitable means including wireless systems such as "Bluetooth" or cable etc. and can be releasably secured to the console by any

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suitable means including magnetic coupling 5 or mechanical interlocking.

The printer module 2 and DVD player module 3 are interconnected by means of connecting housing extensions 6 and 7 which hinge about pivots 8 as shown in Fig. 3. The lower connecting extension 7 preferably includes various input/output connectors and ports 9 for optionally connecting joy sticks and other interactive devices. A video outlet port is

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also provided for connection with standard video type devices as is common in the art. Further ports can also be provided for an external power source or other devices such as sound systems to be interconnected to the console.

The DVD player module 3 is able to take standard DVD games disks 10 as is becoming popular in the industry. The DVD player is interconnected to a high end processor (not shown) which can be constructed along similar lines to standard high end video game processors, or along the lines of that discussed in PCT Patent Application No. PCT/AU98/00544, the contents of which are specifically incorporated herein by cross reference. The processor in turn utilizes memory for standard video game functions and interacts with the print controller chip which is also preferably housed with the high end processor on PCB 11 within the printer module 2. The controller chip (also not shown)

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entitled 'Image creation method and apparatus (ART 77)' filed 9 November, 1998, the contents of which are again incorporated by cross reference. Batteries for driving the console are preferably located in the base of the DVD player module as shown by arrow 12.

5 The printer module 2 is preferably constructed so as to simultaneously provide a closure for the DVD player module 3. This is achieved by hinging the printer unit to the DVD module as shown. The printer module 2 comprises a base molding 14 that is configured to fully enclose a DVD disk receiving compartment 15 formed in the upper surface of the DVD player module 3. The base molding 14 is further configured to define an integral chassis structure 16 adapted on its under side to receive and locate an ink and
10 paper cartridge 18.

The upper surface of the chassis structure 16 is configured to support a printhead and ink distribution assembly 19, print media feed mechanism 20, and ink connecting hoses 21, the latter linking ink outlet nozzles 22 on the chassis with ink inlet nozzles 23 provided on the printhead and ink distribution assembly 19. The printer and DVD control PCB 10 is
15 also supported on the chassis 16 and has flexible connections 26 extending therefrom to interconnect the DVD and printer control buttons 27 and 28 provided on a top cover molding 29.

Details of the printhead, ink distribution assembly and print media feed means are best illustrated in Fig. 8. The printhead, which is preferably in the form of a pagewidth ink jet
20 printhead chip, is packaged with an ink distribution unit and printhead cover into a printhead module 30. This module 30 is supported on a printhead chassis molding 32, and further includes a printhead capping mechanism 33, paired drive rollers 34 and 35, stepper motor 36 and an associated gear box 37 that engages the drive rollers 34 and 35.

The preferred ink and paper cartridge is preferably in accordance with that described
25 in the applicant's copending ^{U.S. Patent Application No. 09/436,508} simultaneously filed application entitled "Ink and print media cartridge with integral pickup roller", the contents of which are incorporated herein by reference. In the alternate embodiment illustrated in the accompanying drawings the ink and paper cartridge comprises a casing 40 defining an upper print media storage region 41 adapted to hold a stack of paper cards or sheets 42. A card dispensing outlet is shown at
30 43. The lower portion of the casing defines an ink supply region 45 which is separated internally into four sections each of which connect with pierceable ink supply outlets 46. On

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installation, these outlets 46 are pierced by formations in the underside of the base molding so that ink flows from the cartridge to the outlet nozzles on the chassis 16, via connecting hoses 21, to the printhead and ink distribution assembly 19.

5 In yet another embodiment, the printer unit and print media container can be snap fitted into the console, ~~and can be constructed in accordance with the principles as outlined in Australian provisional patent entitled 'Image creation method and apparatus (ART 79)'~~ also filed by the present applicant, the contents of which are also hereby incorporated by cross reference.

10 In use, the console is connected to a video device and a DVD 48 is inserted into the DVD player module 3. Appropriate controllers are then selected. These may be the detachable controller module 1 as shown in Fig. 1, or alternatively other external interactive controllers. The printer can then be operated during execution of the program in the DVD either manually or automatically as discussed in more detail below.

15 It will be evident to those skilled in the art that the preferred embodiment provides for a video games system enabling print on demand cards. These cards can be utilized for a number of purposes. Firstly, the video game can, at certain predetermined levels, print out a series of 'brag cards'. These can provide a high resolution picture which can only be achieved at a certain point in the game. The brag cards can be personalised with the game players name, score, chosen character, accumulated wealth or objects, etc. The cards could
20 also include a photographic likeness where the video game arrangement includes an optional image sensor (not shown). With such an option, the brag cards could also be personalised with a photographic likeness mapping on to 3D characters etc.

The DVD player can be adapted to play standard DVD movies in addition to being configured to read CD-ROMs so as to provide information from encyclopaedias, maps etc
25 provided by other CD-ROMs or DVD disks. In this manner, images from DVD movies and information from such CD-ROM or DVD repositories can be printed out. It should be noted that while the preferred form uses a DVD player or drive, the interactive programs may be stored on CD-ROM or on semiconductor memory cartridges, the latter being popularly used with pocket sized prior art video game devices.

30 Additionally, although the preferred embodiment described is designed for optional use with non portable external display and control devices, the game storage medium,

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MARKED-UP COPY OF CLAIMS:

1. A video game console device including:
 - means to receive detachable interactive program storage means for execution by said console;
 - processing ~~and operating~~ means for executing said interactive program stored on said detachable interactive program storage means, said program execution causing the generation of images for display on an image display means;
 - communication means to enable operational interaction from control devices during execution of said program; and
 - an integral printer apparatus including a printhead, ink supply unit, and print media feed means;
 - said printer apparatus being operatively associated with said processing ~~and operating~~ means to print out ~~on to~~ onto print-media images relevant to said interactive program.
11. (Amended) A video game console device according to claim 8, wherein said printhead is ~~formed by a MEMS processing technique~~ a microelectromechanical system (MEMS) printhead.
13. (Amended) A video game console device according to claim 1, wherein said detachable program storage means comprises a ~~CD-ROM~~ compact disk-read only memory (CD-ROM).
17. (Amended) A video game console device according to claim ~~15~~ 16, wherein said controller module is releasably connected with said console by means of a magnetic coupling.